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Historic Sites

# Washington Crossing



FROM THE PAINTING BY E. LEUTZE

FLAG NOT ADOPTED UNTIL JUNE 14, 1777

Brief Itinerary of a Trip from

Philadelphia

to

Washington Crossing

And Other Points of Historic  
Interest in Bucks County  
Pennsylvania









#### OLD BRIDGE SIGN

Which hung for some time before 1841 on the Pennsylvania side of the covered wooden bridge at Taylorsville, now Washington Crossing, Bucks County; painted after 1835 by Edward Hicks (1780-1849), of Newtown, Bucks County, from the picture by Thomas Sully, now in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass. Original (on canvass, 31 x 31 inches) now in Museum of Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Pa. ("Christmas-eve" should have been Christmas-night.)

BRIEF ITINERARY  
OF A TRIP FROM  
PHILADELPHIA  
TO  
WASHINGTON CROSSING  
AND  
OTHER POINTS OF HISTORIC INTEREST  
IN  
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

••

Sesqui-Centennial of Washington's Crossing  
the Delaware River to the  
Victory at Trenton  
"The Marne of the Revolution"

••

WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK COMMISSION  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

1926

Copyright, 1926  
By Henry D. Paxson

## The Journey to Historic Shrines

**T**HIS ITINERARY takes us over parts of two old routes to New York. Over the first road one goes along the comparatively recent Roosevelt Boulevard for several miles. From the Trappe, near Neshaminy Creek, in Bucks County, the road to the Delaware River takes the course of one of the Colonial horseback trails. After reaching the Delaware River the route is along the old river road rich in historic interest. Then one returns to Philadelphia from New Hope over the Old York Road, which was laid out in 1711 and over which in 1769 the stage coaches advertised their ability to make the trip to New York in two days. The first coaches to make the trip in this space of time were called "Flying Machines".

Starting from the north side of City Hall, Philadelphia, from which point mileage of this itinerary (total 84 miles) is reckoned, go north on Broad Street, at Hunting Park Avenue (4.8 m.) turn east on the Roosevelt Boulevard and follow the Lincoln Highway, crossing the Pennypack Creek (12.5 m.), then the Poquessing Creek (17.7 m.), the dividing line between Philadelphia and Bucks Counties, and pass through the Trappe (18.7 m.) and on to Oakford (20 m.).



GROWDEN MANSION "TREVOSE", Front View

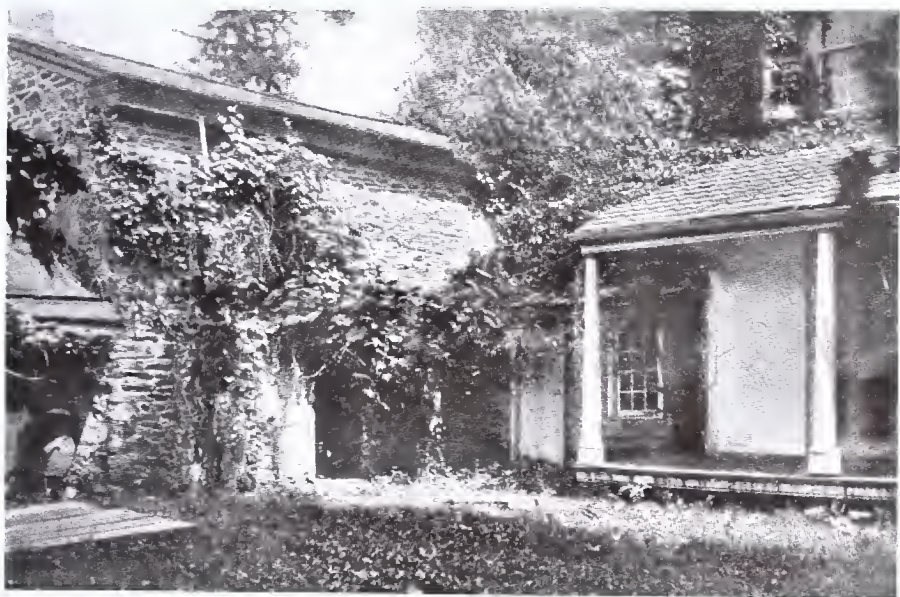
Built by Joseph Growden in 1687. Originally two stories and attic, the third story was added in later years. Now owned and occupied by the sons of Charles W. Taylor.

### JOSEPH GROWDEN'S MANSION

After crossing the Neshaminy Creek (20 m.) by a concrete bridge, on the high-wooded hill on the right, in Bensalem township, is "Trevose", the "Great House" of Joseph Growden, built about 1687 and overlooking his "great manor of Trevose" of 10,000 acres, lying between Poquessing and Neshaminy Creeks. The Growdens were one of the most prominent and distinguished families of Bucks County in early Colonial



days. Joseph Growden was a member of the Assembly in 1685 from Philadelphia. In 1693 he was elected to represent Bucks County in the General Assembly and served as Speaker for a number of terms. He was appointed a provisional judge in 1706 and one of the judges of the Supreme Court in 1715. He was succeeded by his son, Lawrence Growden, a man of ability and attainments, having been a Speaker of the Assembly, Commissioner with Benjamin Eastburn and Richard Peters to run the line between Pennsylvania and Maryland, and many years Register of Wills, Recorder and Clerk of Bucks County. The daughter of



"TREVOSE", East Wing

Used by Joseph Growden as kitchen and slave quarters.

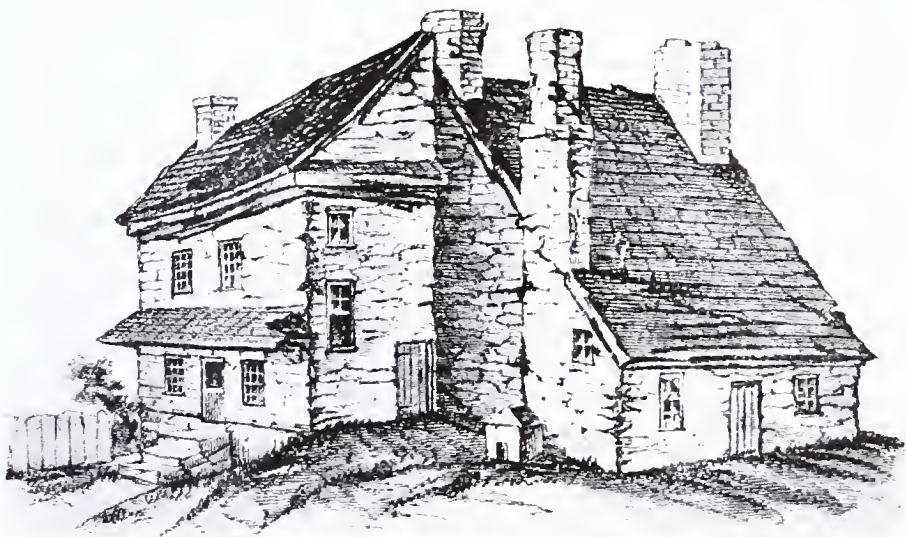
Lawrence Growden, Grace, married Joseph Galloway, who occupied "Trevose" in Revolutionary times. Galloway turned Tory and fled to the British Army in New York. All his lands, which had come to him through his wife, were confiscated.



FIREPROOF OFFICE OF JOSEPH GROWDEN AT "TREVOSE"

Stone building (now used as a garage), about 15 feet square, in which were kept early records of Bucks County and later State documents, as well as papers and letters of Benjamin Franklin. An iron window shutter bears the marks of bullets fired in 1778 by a plundering party, who broke open the office, scattering and destroying the valuable papers. Watson, the annalist, says: "Thomas Paxson, who saw them so strewn about on the ground the next morning, got hold of a MS. journal of a voyage down the Ohio, that was curious and interesting, and being lent about, has disappeared".





#### MANSION OF JEREMIAH LANGHORNE

Built about 1687, and which formerly stood in Middletown Township, Bucks County, a short distance south of the house now occupied by Senator Clarence J. Buckman, near the ford on the Neshaminy, later known as Galloway's Ford.

#### JEREMIAH LANGHORNE'S PLANTATION

On the left, in Middletown township, was the plantation of Jeremiah Langhorne, a man of great ability and probity, a Chief Justice of the Province, a large land-owner and a friend of the Indians. An elegy on his character, written at his death, shows how he was esteemed:

“He stood the patriot of the province, where  
Justice was nourished with celestial care.  
He taught the laws to know their just design,  
Truth, Justice, Mercy, hand in hand to join,  
Without regard to fear or hope of gain  
Or sly designs of base, corrupted men.”

After passing Parkland (21.5 m.) South Langhorne is reached (22.8 m.).

“FOUR LANES’ END”, NOW LANGHORNE

Here turn left on Bellevue Avenue, crossing the tracks of the Reading Railway at Langhorne Station, ascend the hill to the old town of “Four Lanes’ End”,



RICHARDSON HOUSE, Langhorne  
Built in 1738, now a Community House.

now Langhorne (24.1 m.). In the center of the town is the Richardson House, built in 1738, now the "Community House". When Lafayette was wounded at the Battle of Brandywine, he desired to be nursed by the Moravian Sisters at Bethlehem, but there being no



HICKS HOUSE, Langhorne (as remodeled)

Original built by Gilbert Hicks in 1763. Used as a Hospital during the Revolution.

good road to it from there, he was put on a boat at Chester and brought to Bristol and driven by the Durham Road, which was well open from the latter place. The cortege made its first stop at Four Lanes' End, and in this house his wounds were dressed.

Opposite is the brick house, built by Gilbert Hicks in 1763. He was an "officer of the crown" and was

appointed to read from the court house steps the amnesty proclamation of General Howe and his brother, Admiral Howe, of November 30th, 1776. He did this "amidst much confusion". His life was threatened and he fled on horseback to Bristol, where he crossed the river to the English Army in New Jersey. It was in this house the New Jersey Legislature met when driven across the river with Washington and his army in 1776. It was used as a hospital during the Revolution and many bodies were buried in a nearby field. It was confiscated, but purchased by his son, Isaac Hicks, many years a prominent official of Bucks County.



FALLS FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, Fallsington (built 1789).

### FALLS FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSES

Going east from Langhorne on Maple Avenue, one comes again on the Lincoln Highway at Oxford Valley (27 m.), and then on to Fallsington (29.7 m.). Here, it is quite worth while to stop and see two Quaker Meeting Houses, in a beautiful shaded glebe. "Falls" was the mother Quaker Meeting of Penn's favorite county, and Penn frequently attended this Meeting.

### MORRISVILLE

Passing under the railroad tracks go on to Morrisville on the Delaware (33.3 m.), named after Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution, who lived here. It was here Washington and his discouraged army landed when they crossed the river from New Jersey, December 8, 1776, just three hours ahead of their pursuers, bringing all the boats over with them.

### "SUMMERSEAT" OR BARCLAY HOUSE

Here on an eminence on the left, before crossing the canal bridge, can be seen "Summerseat", or the "Barclay House", and sometimes called the "Osborne House", the chief interest attaching to which is the fact that it was the Headquarters of General Washington from December 8 to December 14, 1776. Later this house was owned by two signers of the Declaration of Independence, Robert Morris and George Clymer.





“SUMMERSEAT” (Barclay or Osborne House), Morrisville  
Washington’s Headquarters, December 8-14, 1776.

And here in Morrisville, in what is known as the “Grove”, the home of Robert Morris, General Jean Victor Maria Moreau, one of Napoleon’s ablest generals, exiled from France, lived for a number of years. On his return to Europe in 1813 he fought on the side of the Allies and fell at the battle of Dresden. It should be of interest to recall General Moreau as the hero of Hohenlinden, immortalized by Campbell in his poem:

“On Linden when the sun was low.”

Turning left, north, on the river road, the barracks of the Revolutionary Army at Trenton are plainly



PHOTOGRAPH BY AERO SERVICE CORPORATION

### AIRPLANE VIEW OF WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA.

Giving a general northward view up the Delaware River, showing in the foreground group of buildings, comprising the village, some of which are owned by the Park Commission; above the bridge, Taylor's Island, where the Durham boats were concealed; on the river bank opposite the lower end of the island is the point of embarkation; on the left, the Valley of Concentration, and in the extreme left distance, Bowman's Hill.

visible across the river, as is the fine monument commemorating the battle of Trenton.

### YARDLEY

Yardley is reached (37.2 m.). This was one of the important ferries, known as Yardley's Ferry, the home of the Yardley family for two centuries. One now passes through Yardley by the same road over which 150 years ago the discouraged and disorganized army marched hastily to the shelter of Bowman's and Jericho Hills.



McCONKEY'S "TAVERN FERRY HOUSE"

Washington Crossing (before alterations), showing stone end (north) part of the original Ferry House.



## WASHINGTON CROSSING

Next we come to Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania (42.2 m.), McConkey's Ferry of the Revolution, the place of the famous crossing to the Battle of



OLD FERRY INN at Washington Crossing  
As present restored.

Trenton and the entrance to the Park being created by authority of the State of Pennsylvania, through the Washington Crossing Park Commission to memorialize the event which was "the turning point of the Revolution".

The Park will extend some eight miles up the river to "Coryell's Ferry", now New Hope. Here is "the place of embarkation", "the valley of concentration", where the troops were sheltered from sight until they were given the signal the boats were ready.

"Ye Old Inn" embraces part of the house of Samuel McConkey, the ferryman. This latter contains much to interest the historian, as well as a place for good meals. For a detailed account of the Crossing, see the Commission's book, *"Washington Crossing"*.



#### MALTA ISLAND

Below Coryell's Ferry, where the Durham Boats used in the Crossing were hidden.

Malta Island, where the Durham boats were hidden, is seven miles up the river, and they were dropped down back of Taylor's Island here, the night before the crossing. Taylor's Island is now owned by the Commission.



"December 25, 1776. Christmas, 6 P. M.—The regiments have had their evening parade, but instead of returning to their quarters are marching toward the ferry. It is fearfully cold and raw and a snow-storm setting in. The wind is north-east and beats in the faces of the men. It will be a terrible night for the soldiers who have no shoes. Some of them have tied old rags around their feet; others are barefoot, but I have not heard a man complain. They are ready to suffer any hardship and die rather than give up their liberty". —*From Diary of Captain Thomas Forrest, an Officer on Washington's Staff.*\*

\*NOTE.—The movements of Washington's Army, immediately preceding the attack on Trenton, are, in essential details, generally agreed upon by

historians, with the exception of the routes traversed from McConkey's Ferry to Trenton, on the morning of December 26, 1776.

The march to Trenton, as indicated on the accompanying map, shows that the whole army after crossing the Delaware marched out the Pennington Road to the Bear Tavern, where it separated into two columns, the First Division, or right wing, commanded by General Sullivan, taking the old river road (the present river road close to the river was not then in existence), while the Second Division, or left wing, commanded by General Greene and accompanied by General Washington, continued out the Pennington Road and turned down the Scotch Road, to Trenton.

For designating the above route of the march to Trenton as the true one, and for the map delineations of the same, the authorities are: Diary of Captain Thomas Forrest; Faden's Military Map of the Trenton-Princeton Campaign, (London, April 15, 1777), and "Washington's March to Trenton on Christmas Night in 1776", an address delivered before the Trenton Historical Society, March 20, 1924, by Dr. Carlos E. Godfrey, whose conclusions, the result of recent careful investigations, have been adopted.

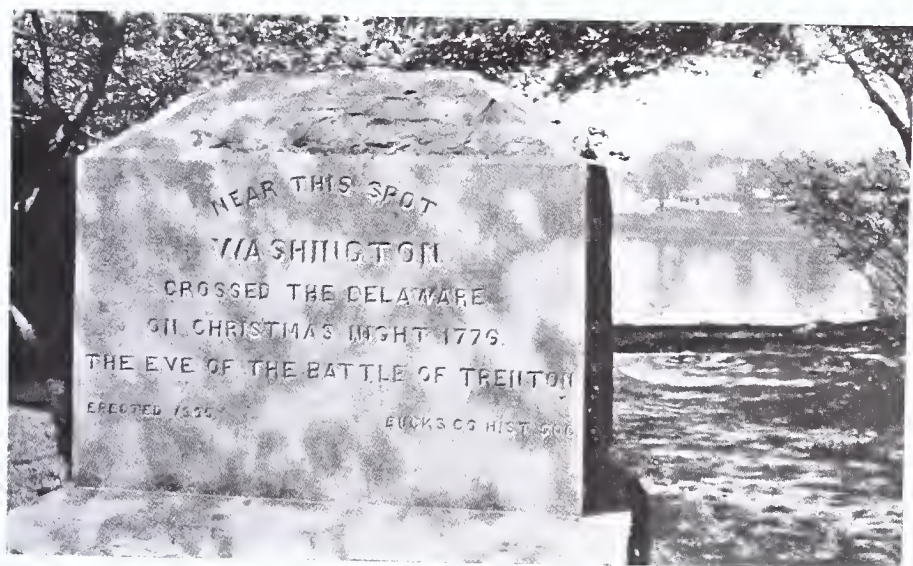
HENRY D. PAXSON.



VALLEY OF CONCENTRATION, at Washington Crossing  
Looking South from Old Mill Dam. Here the Regiments had their  
"evening parade" before marching to the Ferry, Christmas Night,  
1776.



Baker's Creek is crossed (44.6 m.). This was the northern boundary of Penn's first purchase of the Indians, July 15, 1682, and is also the southern boundary line of the tract included in the infamous "Walking Purchase" of September 19-20, 1737, which by a



WASHINGTON CROSSING MONUMENT

Erected by Bucks County Historical Society in 1895, at Place of Embarkation.

greedy surveyor's extension deprived the Indians of their lands at Minnisink. This they denounced as a fraud and yielded to by force. After the Founder's death, as many writers show, the "purchase" turned to hatred his much-lauded Christian relation of brotherhood with a weaker race.



WASHINGTON CROSSING  
MONUMENT

Erected by Patriotic Sons of  
America, in 1916.

At Baker's Creek Bridge a detour may be made by a road to the left leading to Jericho Mountain, on the south side of which are the Keith House, General Washington's Headquarters, December 14-25, 1776; a little further on, the Merrick House, which was the main headquarters of General Greene, where the details of the attack on Trenton were perfected; the Hayhurst House, General Sullivan's Headquarters,



*George Washington*



*Jr. Sullivan*



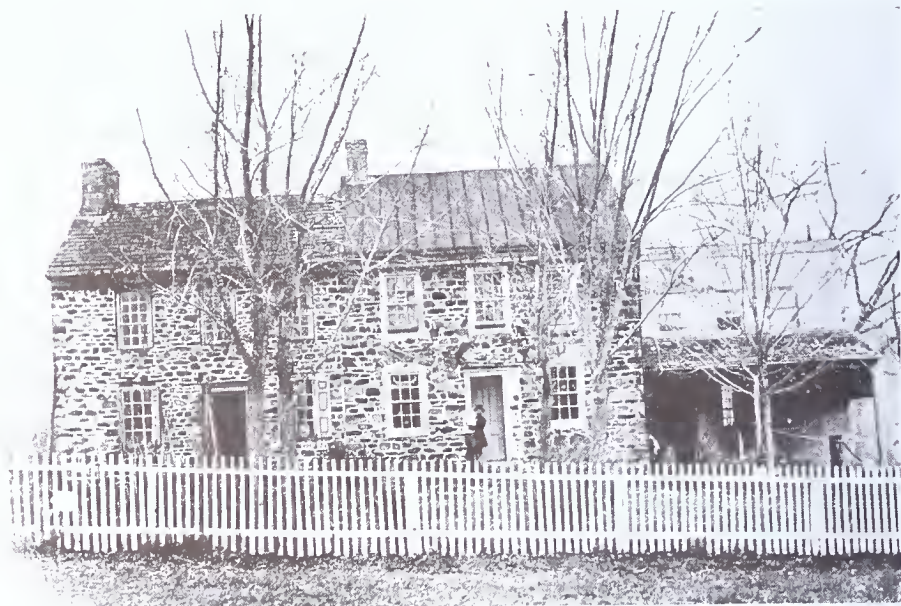
*Nathaniel Greene*



*John Stark*

WASHINGTON AND THREE OF HIS GENERALS  
Reproduced from old prints.

and on the north side of Jericho Mountain the Dr. Chapman House, headquarters of General Knox and Captain Alexander Hamilton.



#### THE KEITH HOUSE

On South Side of Jericho Mountain, in Upper Makefield Township. Built by William Keith, 1763. Washington's Headquarters, December 14-25, 1776. Tablet placed on House by Bucks County Historical Society, 1897.

A beautiful ride of a few miles brings us to the Thompson House, just beyond the old covered bridge over Pidcock's Creek (47.2 m.). Parts of this house were built at three different times between 1701-1757, and the structure is an interesting type of the period.





#### MERRICK HOUSE

On South Side of Jericho Mountain, in Upper Makefield Township, Headquarters of General Greene.

It was the headquarters of General Alexander (Lord Sterling), and in this house General Washington wrote a number of official letters, dated "Camp Above Trenton Falls". In it the Commission proposes to house its Museum.

Within the shadow of Bowman's Hill, and along the river, was the camping place of a part of the American Army. The graves of some of those who died while encamped here are along the river bank. A quaint headstone marks the grave of Captain James Moore, of the New York Artillery, who died in the

Thompson House, December 25, 1776. The remaining graves are marked by field stones. Here was the whole American Army, Washington and all his generals, "the whole hope of liberty in America". This was the "darkest hour of American Independence",



THE DR. CHAPMAN HOUSE

North Side of Jericho Mountain, in Upper Makefield Township, Headquarters of General Knox and Captain Alexander Hamilton.

and from his headquarters in the Keith House Washington wrote to his cousin: "I fear the game is nearly up".

It is quite worth while to go past the mill on the left, and walk up Pidcock's Creek as far as the "Old Copper Mine", and in the peaceful quiet of its fine

woods visualize the conditions of the dejected patriots of one hundred and fifty years ago.

After passing the English stone barns, turn in the first road to the left one-half mile to the Thompson Memorial Church, going around it, and taking in the view of the beautiful hills and river, while about you are the sentinel cedars and modest tombstones where "the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep", and in the



THE THOMPSON HOUSE

Near Bowman's Hill, Headquarters of Lord Sterling. Quartered with him in the Winter of 1776 were Captain William Washington and Lieutenant James Monroe, and also Captain James Moore, of the New York Artillery, who died there Christmas Day, 1776.



unnatural quiet seem to say, "Ho! Life-wearied children, come this way".

#### NEW HOPE—CORYELL'S FERRY OF THE REVOLUTION

Back again to the river road, and north to Coryell's Ferry, now New Hope, (49.9 m.), by a beautiful ride between river, canal and mountains. This was the most noted ferry across the Delaware in Revolutionary times, and was often crossed by Washington's Army on its marches to and from New York and the Jerseys. Many detachments crossed here to join Washington at Bowman's Hill Camp, and he recrossed here to the Battle of Monmouth (1778) after crossing the river the year before, to the "dark winter" at Valley Forge.



QUAINT HEADSTONE MARKING THE  
GRAVE OF CAPT. JAMES MOORE.



AIRPLANE VIEW FROM NEW HOPE, PA.

Looking south down the Delaware River; among the group of trees in the middle foreground, the Thompson House; along the road, on the river bank, in the second open field, are the graves of Captain Moore and Revolutionary soldiers; on the right, middle ground, heavily wooded, is Bowman's Hill, and in the distance, Washington Crossing.

It was here Generals Mercer and De Formoy were sent to guard the ferry (1776), when the British marched up the river, fourteen miles, to this point, hoping to cross and trap the Americans, but, finding it closely guarded by troops from the fortifications on the hill to the west, marched back again.



LOGAN INN

The Ferry Tavern of the Revolution, on Old York Road, New Hope.

Here in New Hope can be seen the Logan House, Old Parry Mansion and Old Ferry slip. Just after one passes the bridge on the main street of New Hope over the stream from the Great Spring, described later, one comes to an old stable abutting the bridge which was a part of the buildings of an old mill built by the Atkinsons in 1761 and which stood here in Washing-

ton's time. This old mill property gave the name to New Hope. It was in possession of the Parrys when it burned down in 1790. They also owned the Prime Hope Mills on the New Jersey shore, which had been built and so named by Benjamin Smith some time before 1746, and when they rebuilt the burned mill on the Pennsylvania side, they called it the New Hope mill, from which the town has taken its name.

The ferry was originally known as "Wells' Ferry", named from John Wells, who obtained his license from Pennsylvania in 1717. This ferry determined the course of the Old York Road. Across the river in New Jersey a ferryman by name of Coates established himself in 1722, and his son later obtained a license from Governor Burnet, of New Jersey, for a ferry right in 1726. In the year of 1733 the New Jersey landing came into possession of Emanuel Coryell, who obtained his patent for the same in 1733. Both John Wells and Emanuel Coryell died 1748. In the year of 1765 John Coryell, a son of Emanuel, bought the Wells' Ferry property, and as the family now owned the inn and landings on both sides of the river the ferry became known as Coryell's Ferry, and by this name it was known for long after the Revolutionary War.

Across the river in Lambertville, New Jersey, stands the old Holcomb House, used by General Washington as his headquarters while he stopped at Coryell's Ferry, July 28-31, 1777, when he was following the movements of Howe's fleet, and again June 21 and 22, 1778, while





HOLCOMB HOUSE, Lambertville, N. J.

Washington's Headquarters on two occasions. His "Coryell's Ferry" Orders and Letters were written from here.

en route from Valley Forge to fight the battle of Monmouth.

Turning to the left on Ferry Street, or the Old York Road, proceed to the top of the hill, where, on the left, stood an old hip-roof house, known as "The Old Fort", and occupied by Generals Mercer and De Formoy as their headquarters. It was taken down in 1891. It stood on the site of Mrs. Kate Beaumont Van Pelt's house. On the left of this house were the entrenchments commanding the Ferry.

Across the road is a long avenue of alternate white pines and maples which leads to "Maple Grove", the old Oliver Paxson homestead of Revolutionary time.



Alongside this lane stood for many years the big chestnut tree, under which, tradition says, Washington and Greene, on a visit of inspection of the ferry defenses, tied their horses, and looking down the river towards



The Hip-roof House, known as "THE OLD FORT"

Residence of Joseph Opdycke, the second house built in New Hope and which formerly stood on Old York Road, Coryell's Ferry (New Hope). Headquarters of General Mercer and General de Formoy previous to the Battle of Trenton.

Trenton, first discussed a plan to capture it. Standing some eighty feet in height and being twenty-two feet in diameter near its base, it was long an imposing landmark, until taken down November 28, 1893.



#### CHESTNUT TREE

Which stood at Coryell's Ferry (New Hope), under which, according to tradition, General Washington and General Greene held a conference previous to the battle of Trenton.

Just beyond "Maple Grove", on the left of the road, stands a yellow pebble-dashed house built by William Maris in 1816. Its peculiar design was suggested by a wing of the old Castle of Cintra, near Lisbon, Portugal, and by the name "Cintra" it has long been known. For many years it was the home of Elias Ely, and is still owned by the family.

Just as one is leaving New Hope the Suggan Road crosses the Old York Road. A short distance down

this road to the left, stands the Old Heath Mill, built in 1702 by Richard Heath, the oldest mill in upper Bucks County. A little beyond this mill stands the ruins of "Springdale", once a stately mansion occupied by Dr. Charles Huffnagle, who was the first United States Consul to India.

Going west on the Old York Road we pass through the "Loganian Lands", deeded by William Penn to his secretary, James Logan, who sold them, reserving an irredeemable ground rent for the support of the



THE GREAT SPRING, or INGHAM'S SPRING

In Solebury Township, called by the Lenni Lenape Indians, Aquetong.

Loganian Library, now merged with the Philadelphia Library. On a part of this tract, on a knoll on the right, is "Inghamdale" (52.1 m.), the residence of Samuel D. Ingham, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States under President Jackson.

A short distance beyond "Inghamdale", a road to the left, at the bottom of the hill, leads to the famous Aquetong Spring, of the Lenni Lenape Indians, also called the Great Spring and Ingham's Spring, the largest natural fountain in eastern Pennsylvania, the flow of which is 3,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours.

#### AQUETONG OR PAXSON'S CORNER

Returning to Old York Road, the next point of historic interest is the village of Aquetong (53.1 m.), known during the Revolution as Paxson's Corner. A short distance from the road, on the right, stands "Rolling Green", the well-built Colonial stone house (1748), owned and occupied during the war by Benjamin Paxson. It has never been out of possession of the Paxson family. Conspicuous for its hospitality, it was frequented by both Revolutionary officers and men. While Benjamin Paxson was a Friend, his leaning towards the American cause was very strong. On this property, was the encampment site of General Charles Lee's army (June 20, 1778), comprising six brigades, which preceded General Washington's army on the march from Valley Forge to Monmouth.





“ROLLING GREEN”

At Paxson's Corner, now Aquetong, Bucks County, home of Benjamin Paxson in Revolutionary times. Foreground shows part of the encampment site of General Charles Lee and Six Brigades (June 20, 1778). To the right, the Pine Tree with its center gone, evidence of the marksmanship of an officer of Washington's Army.

Many Revolutionary stories and traditions, handed down in the Paxson family, cluster around this old Colonial structure. One is the story of the American officer, who, standing near the front door, was bantered by a Paxson urchin about his marksmanship. Seizing a musket from a soldier, the officer shot the topmost bud out of a tall white pine tree quite a distance away across the yard along the York Road. The tree sent up two branches and grew to large propor-

tions. As a noted landmark, it was known for many years as the "Washington Pine". After repeated storms for many years, had battered the old monarch of the primaeval forest, the last remnant, about 15 feet of the trunk, was taken down in July, 1905.

As officers, another story runs, were preparing their evening meal one snowy Christmas Eve—turkey roasting on the spit and cider mulling on the hearth—a rap at the door was followed by marching orders. The savory meal was untouched, and the officers hastened out into the cold stormy night and marshaled their men for the attack on Trenton.

A relic preserved by the Paxson family is a wooden mess bowl left by a Continental soldier from a southern State, who had been taken ill with a fever and was nursed by the family. He died and was buried at "Rolling Green".

#### BUCKINGHAM FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, LAHASKA

Following the journey westward and crossing the Street Road, Lahaska is reached (54.6 m.). Here on the right stands the historic Buckingham Friends' Meeting House (1768), the third building, antedated by others in 1705 and 1731. The master-builder of the present building was Matthias Hutchinson, a member of the Meeting and for two terms Associate Judge of the Courts of Bucks County. Located on the Old York Road, over which Continental troops were often marched, this Meeting House was selected by General

Washington as an important hospital of the Revolution and at times was crowded with wounded and sick soldiers. Many of these died here and were buried side by side in the "strangers plot", without the grave-



BUCKINGHAM FRIENDS' MEETING-HOUSE (built 1768)  
An important Hospital during the Revolution.

yard walls, on the bank along York Road, just beyond the stone horse stable and some seventy feet from the Meeting House door.

Descending Lahaska hill, an enchanting view of Buckingham Valley unfolds. Here the Indians had their last encampment in the Delaware Valley. In the



year 1775 Isaac Still, a prominent Indian and leader of his tribe, collected the last remnants of the Lenni Lenape Indians, some forty people in number, and journeyed with them westward to the Wabash, "far away", as he said, "from war and rum".

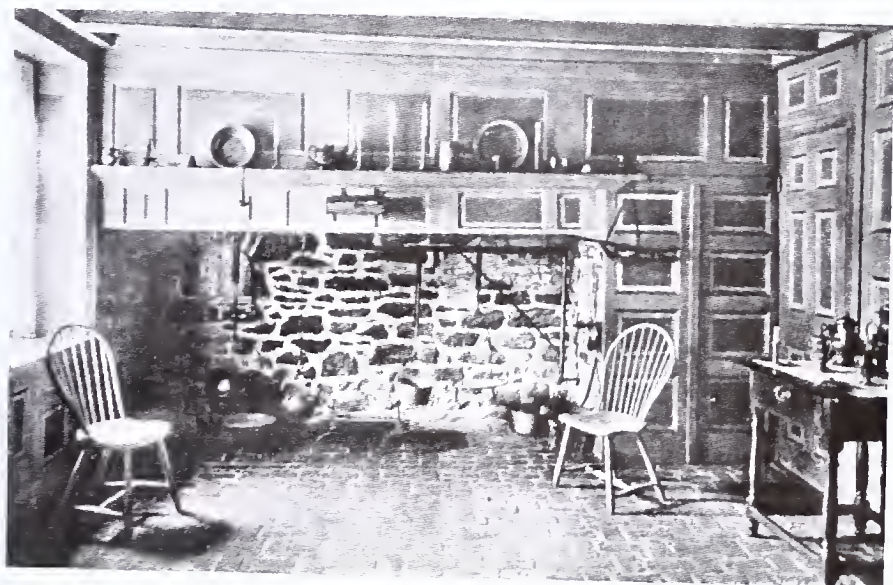
At the foot of the hill on the left is "Elm Grove", the ancestral home of Colonel Henry D. Paxson, with its collections of antique furniture and archaeological and Revolutionary relics. Then soon on the right is the attractive "Wayside" Tea House, a rambling stone structure, with its Revolutionary log end and bake-oven restored.



"WAYSIDE" TEA HOUSE  
Old York Road, Buckingham Township.

### VILLAGE OF HOLICONG

The next hamlet is Holicong, to left of which is the famous Holicong Well, a deep funnel-shaped depression in the limestone formation, with its many Indian traditions. Just beyond Holicong, looking across Buckingham Valley to the south, Buckingham Mountain (elevation, 540 feet) looms as a conspicuous object in the landscape. On the north side of the mountain in a large pile of rocks, known as "Wolf Rocks", a man by the name of Albert Large led a hermit life in a cave, undetected for twenty years.



THE GENERAL GREENE ROOM  
At the General Greene Inn, Buckingham.

## VILLAGE OF BUCKINGHAM

The village of Buckingham (57 m.) is reached at the intersection of the York Road with the Old Durham Road. Here is the General Greene Inn, the "Bogart's Tavern" of the Revolution. The Bucks County Committee of Safety held most of its sessions in this house, which became the committee's headquarters. This was also General Greene's headquarters for a time, and it was from here that the General, on December 10, 1776, wrote his famous order to General Ewing at Sherrerd's Ferry, (in Tinicum Township, Bucks County), to send "sixteen Durham boats and four flats down to McConkey's Ferry".

## SIDE TRIP TO DOYLESTOWN

Tourists and sightseers who desire to visit Doylestown (4 m.), the county seat of Bucks County, can detour to the right at Buckingham, and, passing the headquarters of Washington, the Jonathan Fell House (June 20 and 21, 1778) on the right near the foot of Doylestown hill, reach the town. Here is situated the Bucks County Historical Society and Museum Buildings. The Museum Building, containing a large collection of objects, unique in this country, illustrating the history of human industries, was erected and presented to the Society in 1916 by Dr. Henry C. Mercer, the Society's president.

Returning to Buckingham, continuing the journey along the Old York Road and passing through the

village of Furlong (59.4 m.), at the top of Bridge Valley Hill (60.2 m.) stands one of the original milestones, the twenty-fourth from Philadelphia. This stone is mentioned in Washington's provisional order of retreat, issued December 2, 1777, from the camp at White Marsh. The order was to the effect that in case of an attack by the British, the baggage was to be loaded into wagons and they were to proceed with the army to the York Road and continue up the same to the twenty-fourth milestone, where they were to take their stand.

At Bridge Valley (60.9 m.) the Neshaminy Creek is crossed by a large stone arch bridge.

At the next village, Jamison, (62.4 m.), John Barnhill, the great-great-grandfather of President Roosevelt, was the innkeeper in 1761 and for several years thereafter. He later kept a tavern on Second Street, Philadelphia, which was the starting place for the first stages over the Old York Road route between Philadelphia and New York.

#### WASHINGTON'S ENCAMPMENT AT NESHAMINY

After passing through Jamison at the top of Carr's Hill (63.2 m.) a fine view of Washington's Camp along the Little Neshaminy Creek is obtained. This is historic ground. The main body of the Continental Army under Washington was twice encamped here—first, on the night of July 31, 1777, and afterwards, for two weeks, from August 10 to August 23, 1777,—a longer



time than it was encamped at any other place in Pennsylvania, except White Marsh and Valley Forge.

The army here encamped consisted of about 11,000 men and included in Washington's military family were Generals Greene, Stephen, Sterling, Maxwell,



MOLAND HOUSE

Washington's Headquarters at Neshaminy Camp. Here Lafayette joined the Continental Army, August 20, 1777. Tablet placed on House by Bucks County Historical Society, 1897.

Muhlenberg, Wayne, Woolford, Nash, Knox, Lafayette, Pickering and Moland. It was at the Moland House General Lafayette joined the Continental Army, August 20, 1777. The encampment was on both sides of York Road on the ground sloping to the Neshaminy. This was not a fortified or intrenched position—simply



an encampment. The object of the movement which brought the army here was this: Washington as early as July 25, 1777, had ascertained that the British fleet in the harbor of New York was on the eve of sailing with a powerful force for some unknown destination. He was then sixteen miles from Morristown, New Jersey, and believing that the enemy was bound for the southward, and very probably Philadelphia, set the army in motion for the defense of that city. On the 28th, the army arrived at Coryell's Ferry, and July 31, the army spent the night at Neshaminy Camp, and on the following day moved to Germantown. Howe's fleet of over 200 sail appeared off the Delaware Capes, but learning of Washington's movements, vanished. Washington's army then returned to the Neshaminy camp August 10 and remained until August 23.

Washington's Headquarters were at the Moland House, on which the Bucks County Historical Society has placed a tablet. General Greene had his headquarters in a house on the opposite side of the York Road.

#### THE OLD LOG COLLEGE

Near Hartsville, on the Old York Road, stood the Presbyterian Academy, established about 1726, by the Rev. William Tennent, and known as "Log College". This building was about 20 feet square and constructed entirely of logs. Nothing now remains of the building or its foundation, and its location, almost opposite



#### THE LOG COLLEGE

Reproduced from a picture found in a family Bible in possession of a miner named Wilson, in the Yuba mines, California, it having been presented to him by his grandfather, a native of the vicinity of the site, on the Old York Road near Hartsville, Bucks County.

the Christ Home (but above), is unmarked. From this College in 1746 grew the great College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, and in 1783 Dickinson College of Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

#### FITCH AND HIS STEAMBOAT

At Warminster (65.9 m.) the intersection of the Street Road with the Old York Road stands a monument to the memory of John Fitch, the inventor of the

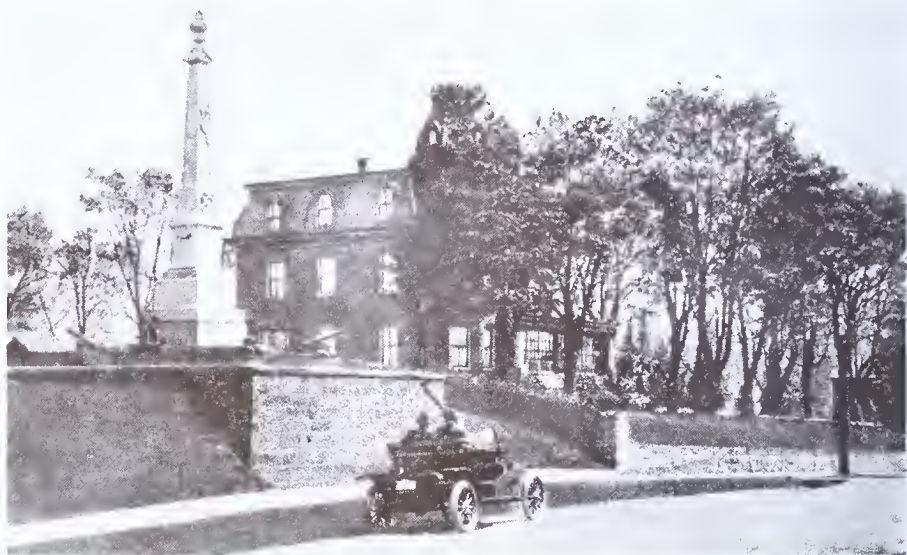
first boat to be propelled by steam. Fitch was born in Windsor, Connecticut, in 1743, but Bucks County was his chosen home. Near this spot Fitch, in the year 1785, conceived the idea of using steam as a motive power. He ran a boat with side wheels by steam on a pond near Davisville, Bucks County, in 1785. In 1788 Fitch built a steamboat that made several successful trips on the Delaware between Philadelphia and Burlington. Fitch's words as to his invention were prophetic and have been more than realized:

"The day will come when some more potent man will get fame and riches from my invention. This will be the mode of crossing the Atlantic in time, whether I shall bring it to perfection or not".

Twenty years later Robert Fulton, a native of Lancaster County, Pa., improved steamboats so that they became of practical benefit. It was through the interest and generosity of Edward Longstreth, of Philadelphia, that this marker was placed here by the Bucks County Historical Society in 1902.

#### CROOKED BILLET, OR HATBORO

Just before entering the town of Hatboro (67.6 m.) on the left hand side of the road is a monument marking the Battle of Crooked Billet (May 1, 1778), where General Lacey's detachment was surprised by a larger body of British soldiers. A number of Americans were killed and wounded.



CROOKED BILLET MONUMENT, Hatboro  
Marking site of opening of the Battle, May 1, 1778.

In Hatboro was the famous old "Crooked Billet" Tavern. Here Washington stopped in 1777, and paid a bill for dinner for himself and staff, amounting to 20 pounds, 3 shillings. The bill, receipted by John Tomkins, is dated August 10, 1777. Tomkins kept the tavern here at this time, and the building, located on the main street has been appropriately marked by the Civic Committee of The Neighbors, Hatboro, 1924.

#### HISTORIC MILESTONE

Passing through Willow Grove (70.4 m.), Abington and Jenkintown (74 m.), Ogontz (75 m.) is reached, where at the foot of the hill is the famous old Bosler

mill and "Ivy Lodge", the Bosler residence, in the kitchen of which was held the first meeting of Friends, who later (about 1699) built Abington Meeting House. Friends' Meetings were held in this house as early as 1687.

Crossing Cheltenham Avenue, on the left is a bridge (77.6 m.) built in 1793, in the parapet of which is walled the seventh milestone from Philadelphia. Historically this is the most interesting milestone in the vicinity of Philadelphia, as it is referred to by name in Washington's "Orders of March and the Battle of Germantown", October 4, 1777.

At Olney Avenue (78.4 m.) the York Road runs into Broad Street, following which takes us back to City Hall (84.3 m.) the place of beginning.

\* \* \*

The ground over which our journey has taken us is rich in history and traditions of the past. Here, in this most ancient area of Bucks County, the chosen home of William Penn, the founder, we can trace the origin of institutions and events from which developed the greatness of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Around this famous Crossing, in the midst of overwhelming fears of impending disaster to the cause of Colonial independence, was born a new and desperate courage, which bore fruition in the brilliant victory at Trenton. To this shrine all lovers of patriotism may well make a pilgrimage.





## A D D E N D A

### TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PENNSYLVANIA:

Memorial of The Washington's Crossing Memorial  
Association of Pennsylvania respectfully shows

That at a large and enthusiastic concourse of citizens of this State upon the site of the memorable crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night, 1776, this association was formed to further the laudable undertaking, already far advanced by State of New Jersey, to erect an appropriate historical shrine where General Washington and his broken army, after eluding the pursuit of their victorious enemy, recrossed the river from Pennsylvania into New Jersey, under most trying conditions, in a desperate effort to rescue from utter collapse the fading cause of liberty.

We appeal to you in the confident expectation that a sense of patriotic duty, too long delayed, will inspire immediate action by our great Commonwealth to perpetuate her part in that decisive event in the history of our common country.

Only a half century has passed since Antietam, Gettysburg and the death of Lincoln, but it was one hundred and thirty-six years ago when the intrepid and masterful strategy of a defeated, half fed, suffering and

discouraged army of less than six thousand undisciplined men, suddenly called from the pursuits of peace, under the leadership of Washington, turned back the advance of a trained and finely equipped army, boastful and confident of assured victory, and thereby destroyed forever all chance of the subjugation of the American people by a foreign power.

But for the campaign of December, 1776, upon the Delaware, we may well doubt if the cause of independence could have survived to have won its final triumph at Yorktown, after eight years of cruel war, and we may have continued mere dependencies of Great Britain, similar to India, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

Had not Washington's stroke of genius carried the day at that critical epoch, there would have been no Yorktown, and no Valley Forge, nor Antietam, Gettysburg nor martyrdom of Lincoln to commemorate. Pennsylvania has generously and patriotically remembered all those events by the erection of beautiful and historically marked parks or the erection of magnificent and enduring monuments dedicated to the courage and sacrifice of the participants, and the general government has appropriated millions to the same great purposes on these and other fields, of which the monument of Lincoln at Washington is the greatest.

It is, therefore, full time that appropriate recognition of the surpassing debt we owe to the brave men whose skill, courage and patriotism, in that brief cam-

paign along the Delaware, assured our independence as a country and made possible the subsequent achievements which states and nation have so honored.

It was upon our soil that the simple but comprehensive movement was conceived and planned by Washington, Knox, Greene, Sterling, Sullivan, Cadwallader and other officers, and it was Pennsylvania's patriotic sons, who, by familiarity with the dangerous navigation of the stream, secrecy and skill in collecting and navigating their famous Durham boats in carrying the army across, assured the successful execution of that part of the plan without which the whole effort must have failed.

We, therefore, do earnestly urge that by suitable legislation you inaugurate the project of making Washington's Crossing the great Mecca of Americans. It lies almost equi-distant between our two greatest cities on almost a direct public road between them, and within a circuit of fifty miles there dwell five millions of inhabitants.

Should your action be favorable, it is proposed to apply to the Congress to supplement the work of Pennsylvania and New Jersey by constructing an enduring and appropriate memorial bridge across the river similar to those erected by other countries to commemorate their great achievements.

THIS MEMORIAL, read at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Washington's Crossing Memorial Association of Pennsylvania, held in Philadelphia Third Month 22, 1913, was unanimously approved and the Secretary directed to attach thereto the names of those present.

WM. C. RYAN

D. NEWLIN FELL

MRS. THOMAS POTTER, JR.

MISS EMMA L. CROWELL

J. ERNEST SCOTT

W. HEYWARD MYERS

WM. G. HOWELL

GEORGE ZIEGLER

THOMAS C. KNOWLES

SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER

J. HORACE MCFARLAND

MRS. ALEXANDER E. PATTON

RICHARD M. CADWALLADER

CHARLES L. MCKEEHAN

JESSE C. EVERETT

JOSEPH R. GRUNDY

CHARLES T. EASTBURN

HENRY D. PAXSON

J. EDWARD MOON

WEBSTER GRIM

HENRY C. MERCER

B. F. FACKENTHALL, JR.

SAMUEL C. EASTBURN

JOHN M. REYNOLDS

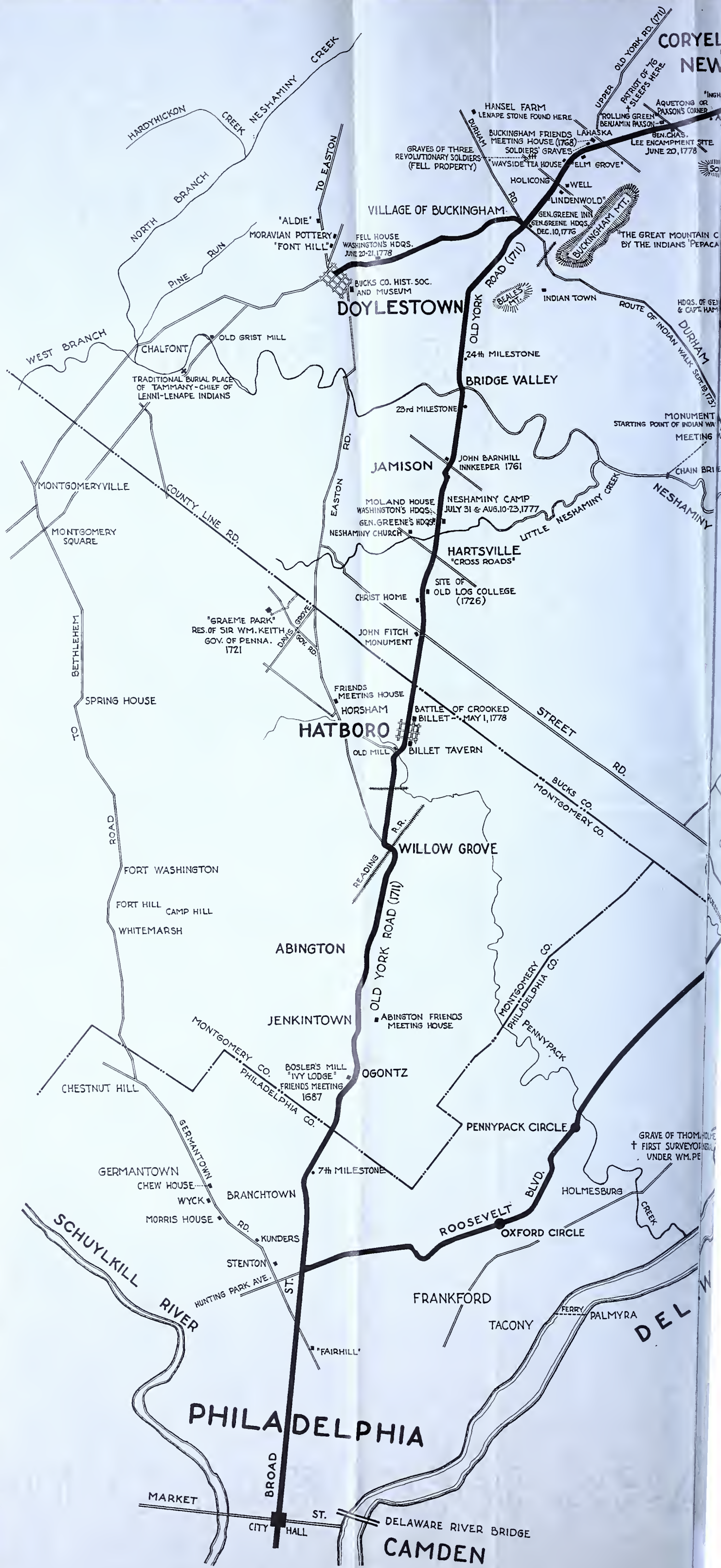
HARMAN YERKES



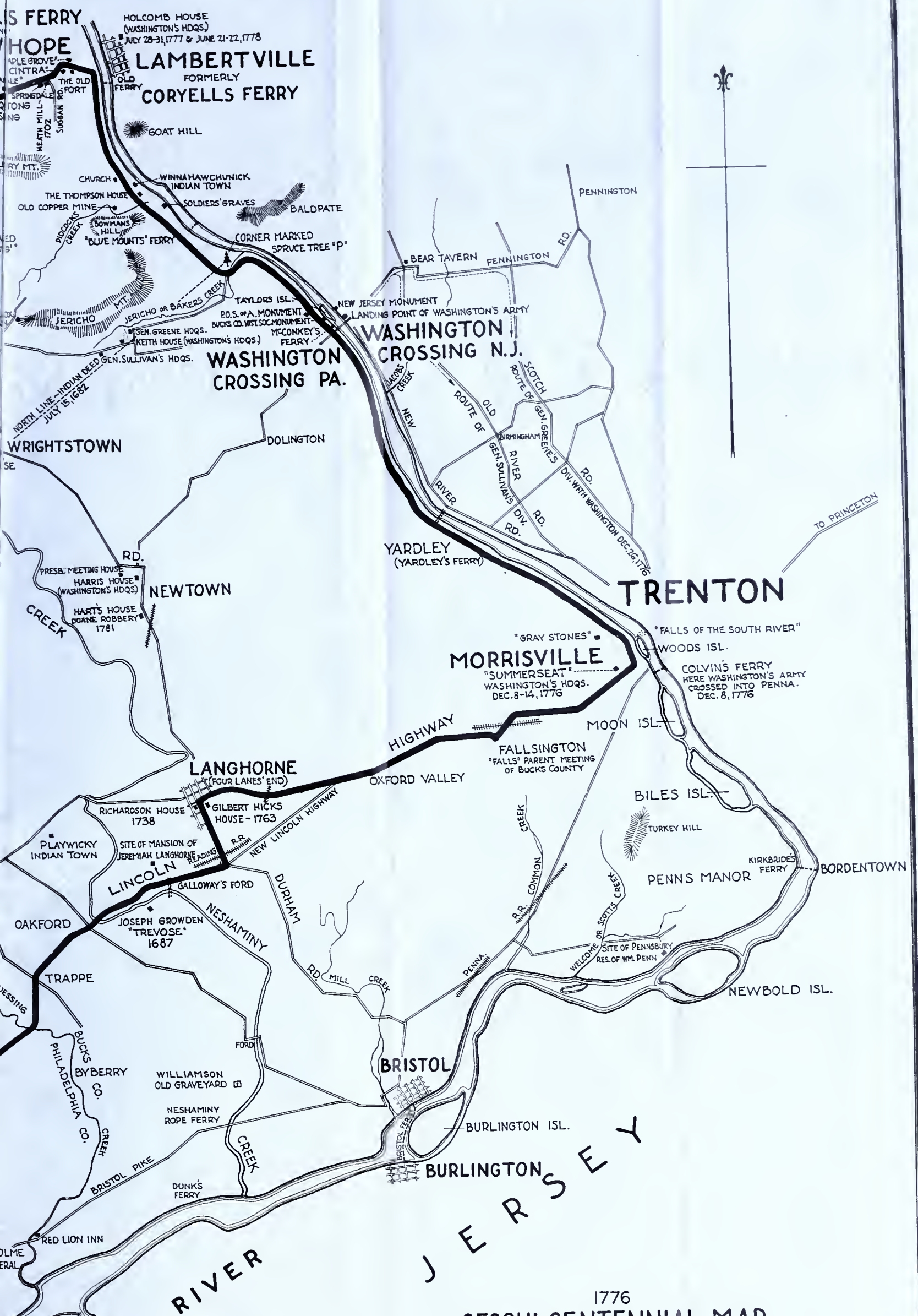
# WASHINGTON CROSSING PARK COMMISSION

OF  
PENNSYLVANIA  
1926

HARMAN YERKES, <i>President</i>	Doylestown, Pa.
W. CLAYTON HACKETT, <i>Secretary</i>	Easton, Pa.
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SAMUEL C. EASTBURN	Langhorne, Pa.
ALLEN W. HAGENBACH	Allentown, Pa.
CLARENCE J. BUCKMAN	Langhorne, Pa.
CARROLL R. WILLIAMS	New Hope, Pa.
H. EDGAR LEWIS	Bethlehem, Pa.
LOUIS H. HITCHLER	Oxford, Pa.
HENRY D. PAXSON	Holicong, Pa.
ERNEST H. HARVEY	Langhorne, Pa.
<i>Assistant Secretary and Superintendent</i>	







*Henry Paxson*  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
March 1926.

